
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN, THE JAPAN DEFENSE AGENCY, AND THE NATIONAL DIET OF JAPAN TO TAKE ACTION TO REDUCE THE UNITED STATES MILITARY PRESENCE IN OKINAWA.

1 WHEREAS, since the time when Okinawa was known as the
2 sovereign Ryukyu Kingdom before its colonization by Japan in
3 1872, the United States has had a long relationship with
4 Okinawa; and

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6 WHEREAS, the brunt of the tremendous number of casualties
7 in the historic Battle of Okinawa in World War II between the
8 United States and Japan were Okinawan civilians, amounting to
9 almost one-third of the population; and

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11 WHEREAS, since then, Okinawa has endured great hardships in
12 its efforts to restore the health of its economy, land, and
13 people on its war-torn island; and

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15 WHEREAS, the population density of Okinawa is approximately
16 two thousand nine hundred persons per square mile, nearly twice
17 that of the island of Oahu; yet Okinawa is smaller than Kauai,
18 at only four hundred sixty square miles; and

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20 WHEREAS, the prefecture of Okinawa comprises only six-
21 tenths of one per cent of the total landmass of the nation of
22 Japan, yet seventy-five per cent of the United States' military
23 presence has been concentrated in Okinawa for over five decades
24 since World War II; and

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26 WHEREAS, the people and the government of Okinawa have
27 repeatedly appealed for land, air, and sea space to improve
28 Okinawa's struggling economy and the well-being and safety of
29 its people; and

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2 WHEREAS, like Hawaii, Okinawa strives to diversify its
3 industries from tourism and the military to strengthen its
4 economy, which requires the return of facilities not needed for
5 United States military purposes; and
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7 WHEREAS, while some progress has been made to return or to
8 provide for joint use of Okinawan facilities by the United
9 States and Japan, facilities such as Kadena Air Base, Futenma
10 Marine Corps Air Station, Naha Military Port, and other
11 facilities, which make up twenty per cent of the land the United
12 States military occupies on Okinawa and are scheduled to be
13 returned to Okinawa, are still under negotiations; and
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15 WHEREAS, since World War II, there have been numerous
16 heinous criminal activities by United States military personnel
17 that continue to damage the military's reputation and
18 relationships locally and internationally; and
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20 WHEREAS, the United States and Japan have both acknowledged
21 the disproportionate burden placed on the people of Okinawa in
22 the 1996 Final Report of the Special Action Committee on Okinawa
23 and have pledged to dismantle and return Futenma Air Station by
24 2003 to Okinawa, but the station remains in operation with
25 records of up to two hundred flights from the station that fly
26 over residential and commercial areas; and
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28 WHEREAS, United States military exercises result in
29 recurring deadly accidents, such as the 2004 crash of a Kaneohe
30 Marine helicopter into an Okinawan university near Futenma Air
31 Station where the United States military physically halted local
32 authorities from investigating outside military property; and
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34 WHEREAS, the proximity of military installations to urban
35 populations has been shown to jeopardize the security of
36 inhabitants and the health and development of infants and
37 children around military bases such as Futenma Air Station; and
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39 WHEREAS, the Okinawan people have been asserting their
40 right to self-determination from the United States and Japan's
41 military policies, as expressed in the Okinawa Prefectural

1 referendum on September 8, 1996, which resulted in almost ninety
2 per cent in favor of military reduction and the revision of the
3 Japan-United States Status of Forces Agreement; and
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5 WHEREAS, more recent polls, such as the August 2005 Okinawa
6 Times poll reported eighty-two per cent of Okinawan citizens
7 oppose base expansion; and
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9 WHEREAS, the proposal for a mile-long off-shore heliport
10 base near a world-class reef in rural northern Okinawa has been
11 rejected by prefecture and municipal leaders, as well as the
12 majority of residents who voted against the base construction in
13 a 1997 referendum of Nago City; and
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15 WHEREAS, numerous international scientific bodies, such as
16 the World Conservation Congress, have condemned the construction
17 of the proposed Henoko Village heliport as detrimental to the
18 endangered dugong, an internationally protected sea mammal; and
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20 WHEREAS, the people of Okinawa have symbolically shown
21 their opposition to military base construction through community
22 actions, such as a vigil on-going for over eight years, civil
23 disobedience led by village seniors for over a year-and-a-half,
24 and numerous incidents of linking of hands around entire
25 military bases by peace-seeking peoples, including over 27,500
26 people around Kadena Air Force Base, the largest American air
27 field outside of the United States; and
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29 WHEREAS, the United States is engaged in fighting for the
30 democratic rights of the people of Afghanistan and Iraq; and
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32 WHEREAS, to honor and be consistent with these precious
33 democratic principles, the President of the United States should
34 respect the requests of the Okinawan people and reduce the
35 military presence in Okinawa so that these military bases can be
36 used for peaceful, economically sustainable uses, as enshrined
37 in numerous international treaties, such as the International
38 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of which the United
39 States and Japan are signatories; and
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1 WHEREAS, the people of Hawaii, including the indigenous
2 Hawaiian community and especially the Okinawan community, have a
3 special bond with the people of Okinawa, as evidenced by the
4 sister state-prefecture relation that was established in 1985,
5 and are sympathetic to the feelings and human rights of the
6 people of Okinawa; now, therefore,
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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
9 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
10 of 2006, that the President of the United States, the United
11 States Department of Defense, and the United States Congress, in
12 concert with the Prime Minister of Japan, the Japan Defense
13 Agency, and the National Diet of Japan, are requested to
14 recommit their efforts to negotiate and expedite an agreeable
15 solution for a potential relocation, adjustment, realignment,
16 and overall reduction of the current presence of the United
17 States military forces in Okinawa, and other Japanese land
18 areas, with the intent to return land and facilities not needed
19 for direct military purposes back to Okinawa Prefecture, as
20 recommended by the Final Report of the Special Action Committee
21 on Okinawa and the Treaty of Obligations; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United
24 States, the Department of Defense, and the United States
25 Congress are requested to evaluate the distribution of forces in
26 Japan and Asia, with due consideration of Okinawa's internal
27 affairs and the international situation, and to first consider
28 the possibility of reducing the overall need for military
29 facilities in Japan before considering relocating those military
30 facilities within Japan or elsewhere; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
34 the Prime Minister of Japan, the United States Secretary of
35 Defense, the Minister of State for Defense of Japan, the
36 Commander of the United States Pacific Command, the chairpersons
37 and ranking members of the United States Senate and United
38 States House of Representatives Committees on Appropriations
39 Sub-committees on Defense, the chairpersons and ranking members
40 of the United States Senate and United States House of
41 Representatives Committees on Armed Services, the members of the

1 congressional delegation from Hawaii, the President of the House
2 of Councillors of the National Diet of Japan, the Speaker of the
3 House of Representatives of the National Diet of Japan, the
4 Consul-General of Japan in Honolulu, the Governor of the State
5 of Hawaii, the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture, and the Hawaii
6 United Okinawa Association, who in turn, is requested to
7 transmit it to its member organizations.

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